

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 3667

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR

SUBJECT: CYPRUS TALKS: CONVERSATIONS WITH CLERIDES AND DENKTASH

1. EAGLETON SPENT 45 MINUTES FIRST WITH CLERIDES AND THEN WITH DENKTASH PRIOR TO MORNING SESSION OF CYPRUS TALKS APRIL 29. THEIR REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS DURING FIRST DAY OF TALKS WERE SIMILAR TO WALDHEIM'S. THEY BOTH SEEMED TO HAVE A REALISTIC APPRECIATION OF WHAT COULD AND COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED THIS WEEK IN VIENNA.

2. CLERIDES SAID HE HAD TRIED TO PROBE DENKTASH RE TERRITORY UNDER A BIZONAL ARRANGEMENT. DENKTASH HAD SIDESTEPPED BY SAYING TERRITORY WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER POWERS OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WERE EXTENSIVE, MEDIUM, OR MINIMAL. CLERIDES ASKED FOR A QUOTATION ON EACH CATEGORY, BUT DENKTASH INDICATED HE WAS NOT YET READY TO DISCUSS PERCENTAGES OR DRAW LINES ON MAPS.

3. CLERIDES SAID HE HAD BEEN WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH PUTTING THE POWERS OF GOVERNMENT ISSUE TO AN EXPERTS COMMITTEE, BUT HE WONDERED WHAT HE AND DENKTASH WOULD DO FOR REMAINDER OF WEEK IF THEY COULD NOT DISCUSS TERRITORY.

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HE WANTED TO TAKE SOMETHING POSITIVE BACK TO NICOSIA

AND HOPED THE TURKS MIGHT AGREE TO GIVE UP PART OF SOUTHERN FAMAGUSTA OR ALLOW OPENING OF NICOSIA AIRPORT BY AND FOR THE UN. MORE MODESTLY HE HOPED TURKS WOULD AT LEAST PERMIT GREATER FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF GREEK CYPRIOTS IN THE KARPAS REGION.

4. DENKTASH SAID HE DOUBTED VERY MUCH THAT THE TURKISH MILITARY OR GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE TO A GREEK OCCUPATION OF ANY PART OF FAMAGUSTA PRIOR TO A FINAL SETTLEMENT. HE HAD HOWEVER PASSED ON TO ANKARA CLERIDES SUGGESTION FOR OPENING OF NICOSIA AIRPORT BY THE UN. THIS GAVE HIM NO PROBLEM, BUT DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE IN ANKARA. HE ALSO THOUGHT SOMETHING COULD BE DONE TO MAKE LIFE EASIER FOR GREEK CYPRIOTS IN THE KARPAS.

5. DENKTASH SAID STEPS TOWARD BRINGING NEW TURKISH CYPRIOT CONSTITUTION INTO EFFECT WERE AUTOMATIC AND COULD NOT BE DELAYED. HE ARGUED THAT THIS SHOULD NOT DISTURB GREEKS SINCE CONSTITUTION WAS A TEMPORARY ONE UNTIL A FINAL SETTLEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED. HE SEEMED TO BE AWARE HOWEVER THAT PUBLIC OPINION MIGHT NOT ACCEPT THIS VIEW. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING WITH CLERIDES HIS PROPOSAL THAT A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS, REPRESENTING BOTH GREEKS AND TURKS, SHOULD BE SET UP PENDING A FINAL SETTLEMENT.

6. DENKTASH KNEW THAT EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO ARRANGE DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD FIRST CONTACT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN VIENNA, AFTER INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS HAD ENDED. HE FIRST ARGUED THAT HE COULD NOT DISCUSS TERRITORY BECAUSE GREEK SIDE HAD NOT YET MADE A DECISION RE BIZONAL PRINCIPLE, BUT LATER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DELAY WAS CAUSED BY DIFFICULTIES FACING NEW TURKISH COALITION GOVERNMENT. HE HOPED TURKISH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY ORGANIZED AND CONTACTS WITH GREEK GOVERNMENT FAR ENOUGH ALONG TO PERMIT PROGRESS ON BASIC QUESTIONS SUCH AS TERRITORY AT NEXT MEETING, IN VIENNA OR NICOSIA, IN EARLY JUNE.

7. EAGLETON TOLD BOTH DENKTASH AND CLERIDES THAT CONTINUED
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SUSPENSION OF US ARMS SUPPLIES FOR TURKEY MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR US TO PLAY THE ROLE THAT WAS EXPECTED OF IT. CLERIDES REITERATED THAT HE HAD STRONGLY URGED ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS TO REFRAIN FROM MAKING ANY COMMENTS WHILE IN THE US THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS INTERFERING IN US DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

8. PROSPECTS ARE THAT THIS ROUND OF INTERCOMMUNAL

CYPRUS TALKS WILL END ON POSITIVE NOTE, WITH LITTLE
FORWARD MOVEMENT ON MAJOR ISSUES BUT POSSIBLY SOMETHING
ON NICOSIA AIRPORT AND EXPECTATION THAT SUBSTANTIAL
PROGRESS MIGHT BE MADE WHEN TALKS RECONVENE IN JUNE.
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